

**Union-Lyceum Taxi Company, Inc.
64 Brainard Street
New London, CT 06320**

January 26, 2021

**To: Members of the Transportation Committee
Re: SB 261, Section 8**

Union-Lyceum Taxi Company comes forward to the Transportation Committee absolutely opposed to Section 8 of SB 261.

Our company began in 1918 with the merger of Union Taxi Company and Lyceum Taxi Company. We have weathered many storms over the decades, but nothing like what the Covid-19 pandemic and the creation of TNC models have brought to us.

The safety and well being of the public is of the utmost importance to all of us who live and work in the state of Connecticut. This bill is being examined with that in mind. Our competitor industries have the advantage of less regulatory requirements, oversight and buying power with their sheer size. If this bill goes forward as written we shall have great difficulty in obtaining an insurer willing to write a 500,000 limit on taxicab insurance. It is already a shrinking market as it stands now. Additionally, if we can find an insurer, what will be the cost? The insurance costs could be high enough to close our doors!

Covid-19 has already taken a toll on us as markets have either declined or disappeared altogether. Our tourist destinations in southeast Connecticut have lost business, universities are now online learning instead of in-school, casino and hotel staffing is cut (even more on 12/07/20), ferry terminal, train and bus station traffic has declined. Medical appointments are now on-line as opposed to in office. All of his impacts our taxicab business without even going into rideshare platforms taking away a majority of our business.

As to safety, we are highly regulated by the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The drivers and vehicles utilized are subject to a multitude of regulations and requirements. Our previous and current insurance companies have paid all claims in good faith and the few that have been litigated have been settled by a Superior Court trial when it was deemed necessary. The public has and will be protected.

For many in our communities, taxicabs are a lifeline for their day to day needs. This industry provides an important service to the financially challenged, as well as the physically challenged. We hope to continue to provide the safe, affordable and timely service in the future.

Kim E. Curtin
President

